GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3919
ANSWERED ON:27.03.2017
School Dropouts
Rajoria Dr. Manoj

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any data of the number of children belonging to Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes dropping out from the schools before completing the required education;

(b) if so, the details thereof during the last three years and the current year, State/UT/Year-wise; and

(c) the remedial measures taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to tackle the situation?

Answer

MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
(SHRI UPENDRA KUSHWAHA)

(a) and (b): The National University of Educational Planning and Administration (NUEPA) collects annually the information on various educational indicators including annual average dropout rate of children belonging to Scheduled Castes (SC) and Scheduled Tribes (ST) through the Unified District Information System for Education (UDISE). The collection of data on annual average dropout rate of children belonging to SC and ST at elementary level has been started since academic year 2013-14. At secondary and higher secondary level, this has started from academic year 2014-15.

The State/UT/Year-wise details on annual average dropout rate of children belonging to SC and ST at elementary, secondary and higher secondary level are at Annexure - I and II, respectively.

(c): The Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, 2009 provides for free and compulsory elementary education to all children including children belonging to SC and ST, for the age group of 6 to 14 years. The Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) provides assistance to State Governments and UTs to ensure quality elementary education for all children. Universal enrolment is the first goal of SSA. SSA has provided 2.04 lakh primary and 1.59 lakh upper primary schools for ensuring universal provisioning of schooling facilities. Preference for opening of school is given to tribal areas, and areas with high concentration of SC, ST and minority population. In addition, 3609 Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalayas (KGBVs), which are residential schools for girls at upper primary level, have also been sanctioned to the States for improving access to marginalised girls particularly out of school, either drop out or never enrolled. The number of total children enrolled at elementary level has risen to 19.7 crore in 2015-16 as against 15.1 crores in 1998-99.
Under SSA, provisions have also been made for residential schools/hostels and transportation/ escort facility for children living in sparsely populated areas, children living in areas where schools cannot be opened due to unavailability of land and children in need of care and protection. Special training is also provided to all such children who are school dropouts and long absentees and they are enrolled in "back to school" camps.
Additionally, other strategies adopted under SSA such as strengthening school infrastructure, improving pupil-teacher ratios, providing incentives like free textbooks, uniforms for eligible category of children and mid-day meal in schools have proved to be useful in increasing the enrolment of children in elementary schools.
The Centrally sponsored scheme of Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA) envisages universalizing access to secondary schools by providing a secondary school within a reasonable distance (5 kilometer) of every habitation, improving quality of education through making all secondary schools conform to prescribed norms and removal of gender, socio-economic and disability barriers. Under RMSA, financial assistance is provided for improving access by establishing new secondary schools and strengthening of existing secondary schools by providing additional classrooms, science laboratory, library, computer rooms, art/craft/culture rooms, toilets, drinking water facilities etc, to reduce dropout and to increase enrolment especially of students of SC, ST, Minority categories and girls at secondary stage. Interventions like conduct of awareness programme, special teaching for learning enhancement, introduction of Vocational Education at secondary and higher secondary stage, In-service Training of Teachers, leadership Training of Head Masters, remedial teaching for weaker students etc. are also supported under RMSA to improve quality of education at secondary level. Girls Hostels are established in Educationally Backward Blocks for girls to pursue secondary and higher secondary education and predominantly belonging to SC, ST and Minority categories.